



CITY NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** Media Advisory ****

WPD develops plan to address impaired drivers in East Wichita

With DUI-related accidents expected to exceed last year's numbers in east Wichita, the Patrol East Bureau of the Wichita Police Department is taking aggressive action.

Officer Mike Lloyd and Officer Dave Hinnners, Beat Coordinators in Patrol East, are using technology, education and old-fashioned hard work to stop this trend and make east Wichita a safer place to drive.

During the first nine months of 2005, there were approximately 75 DUI-related crashes, 285 DUI arrests and two DUI-related fatalities. Officers Lloyd and Hinnners used technology to analyze crime statistics and data from the Patrol East Bureau. They broke down the DUI crashes and arrests by location, time, day of the week, etc., and then formulated a plan of action based on the statistical data.

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They found that on Friday nights, areas in the 33, 36, 37 and 39 beats are hot spots for impaired driving, and on Saturday nights, the areas in the 38 and 399 beats (see attached map) are hot spots for impaired drivers.

In order to address this public safety concern, Patrol East will be stepping up DUI enforcement the remainder of 2005, and will make it a priority in 2006. The East Bureau has a number of educational and enforcement activities planned.

The DUI enforcement project will kick off this Friday with a DUI saturation patrol, with an emphasis in the 33, 36, 37 and 39 beat areas. When participating in a DUI saturation patrol, Officers are not expected to respond to calls dispatched by 911; their sole focus is to detect and arrest impaired drivers.

The Officers participating in the saturation patrol will be driving marked police cars with a DUI Task Force sign on the vehicle. Motorists who are suspected of driving under the influence will be pulled over and given a field sobriety test, which may be followed by a Breath Alcohol Test. Those drivers found to be over the legal limit of .08 will be arrested.

Additionally, Officers will be passing out flyers that contain information on the financial cost of driving under the influence and general information on the increased DUI enforcement effort (see attached).

Future activities include additional saturation patrols, DUI check lanes, Designated Driver Nights at area nightclubs and bars, and education efforts.

For more information, please contact Sgt. Allen Wolf or Capt. Brent Allred at the Patrol East Bureau at 688-9331.